

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A biodegradable molded article comprising:

a biodegradable expanded molded article molded in a
5 specified shape; and

a coating film attached to a surface of the biodegradable
expanded molded article, the film being mainly made of
a biodegradable plastic and having at least
hydrophobicity,

10 the biodegradable expanded molded article being molded, through
steam expansion, from a slurry or dough molding material mainly
made of a starch and a derivative thereof and prepared by adding
water to the starch or the derivative thereof,
the starch and the derivative thereof containing high-amylose
15 starch or a derivative thereof.

2. The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim
1, wherein the starch and a derivative thereof contains not less
than 50 weight % high-amylose starch or a derivative thereof.

3 A biodegradable molded article comprising:

20 a biodegradable expanded molded article molded in a
specified shape; and

a coating film attached to a surface of the biodegradable
expanded molded article, the film being mainly made of
a biodegradable plastic and having at least
25 hydrophobicity,

said biodegradable expanded molded article being molded, through steam expansion, from a slurry or dough molding material mainly made of a starch and a derivative thereof and prepared by adding water and polyvinyl alcohol to the starch or the derivative thereof.

4. The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 3, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a polymerization degree of not less than 1500.

5. The biodegradable molded article as set forth in claim 3 or 4, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a saponification degree of not less than 75%.

6. The biodegradable molded article as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the coating film is mainly made of a modified polyester.

7. The biodegradable molded article as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the coating film is biaxially stretched.

8. The biodegradable molded article as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the molding material further contains a water-insoluble fiber.

9. The biodegradable molded article as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the expanded molded article accounts for not less than 60 weight % of total weight of the biodegradable molded article.

10. The biodegradable molded article as set forth in any

one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the molding material contains water which accounts for 20 weight % to 70 weight %, assuming that the biodegradable molded article is 100 weight %.

11. The biodegradable molded article as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the coating film is directly and substantially adhered to the surface.

12. The biodegradable molded article as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 11 wherein the biodegradable expanded molded article has a final water content between 3 weight % and 20 weight %.